



July 31, 2007

The Honorable John Dingell  
Chairman,  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Chairman,  
Committee on Ways and Means  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Dingell and Rangel:

I am writing on behalf of the American Nurses Association (ANA) to express our support for the Children's Health and Medicare Protection (CHAMP) Act of 2007. ANA endorses your efforts to provide essential health care services to America's children, and to plug glaring holes in the Medicare benefit. ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 54 constituent member nurses associations.

From the tragedy of cancer found too late, to the needless suffering caused by uncontrolled asthma, America's nurses are daily witness to the tragic consequences of delayed access to health care services. The CHAMP Act makes great strides in addressing the health care needs of our most vulnerable citizens by providing health care coverage to an additional 5 million uninsured children, and by improving access to essential preventive and therapeutic services for Medicare beneficiaries.

Your commitment to investing \$50 billion in the State Children's Health Insurance Program is laudable. Despite statements to the contrary, ANA recognizes that the CHAMP Act focuses on reaching children who are already eligible for coverage under Medicaid. Many other provisions of this bill, including modifications of citizenship and documentation requirements, clarification that EPSTD is a required benefit under Medicaid, and the inclusion of pediatric quality measurement programs will greatly benefit America's children.

ANA also applauds a provision in the CHAMP Act that removes a long-standing disparity in Medicare reimbursement for nurse midwifery services. In addition, ANA supports other important improvements that would add new preventive health benefits without cost sharing, and much-needed parity in co-payments for mental health services. The CHAMP Act would also expand and improve access to needed medications for low-income elderly, and would take steps toward ensuring that beneficiaries have access to the provider of their choice by reversing a scheduled cut in advanced practice registered nurse and physician reimbursement. All of these provisions are necessary to meet our nation's commitment to Medicare beneficiaries.

ANA looks forward to working with you on the passage and enactment of the CHAMP Act.

Sincerely,

Rose Gonzalez, MPS, RN  
Director, Government Affairs